

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 DRC-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25

NEA-10 OIC-04 /188 W

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R 251511Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1466

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5091

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN CB

SUBJECT: KHMER IN 28TH GA: NOV 23 ASIAN WORKING GROUP MEETING

REF: USUN 5023 (NOTAL)

1. JAPANESE PERMREP SAITO AT NOV 23 RECEPTION TOLD MISOFFS OF LATE AFTERNOON ASIAN WORKING GROUP (AWG) MEETING ON KHMER ISSUE. SAITO SAID AWG DETERMINED THAT SO FAR SPEAKERS' LIST FOR HALF-DAY PLENARY DEBATE NOV 29 INCLUDES ONLY ALGERIA AND ALBANIA. KHMER FONMIN LONG BORET WILL SPEAK AND OTHER AWG MEMBERS (E.G., THAILAND) WILL BE PREPARED TO SPEAK.

2. AWG DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY THAT CONSENSUS COULD BE WORKED OUT ON KHMER BUT DISMISSED THIS BECAUSE IT FELT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ACHIEVE. NEXT AWG DISCUSSED DEFERMENT, AGREED THAT THIS PREFERABLE, AND DECIDED TAKE SOUNDINGS WITH ARGENTINA, ETHIOPIA, GHANA AND MEXICO TO DETERMINE IF THESE COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE LEAD ON DEFERMENT. AWG ALSO DISCUSSED SOUNDINGS FROM LOBBYING IN CAPITALS. APPROX-
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IMATELY TWENTY-FIVE COUNTRIES WERE SELECTED WHERE SOUNDINGS

INCONCLUSIVE AND THERE NEED FOR EFFORT IN NEW YORK. AWG WILL MEET NOV. 28 TO REPORT RESULTS OF EFFORTS TO GET NON-ALIGNED SPONSOR DEFERMENT MOVE AND TO DECIDE FURTHER TACTICS FOR NEXT DAY'S DEBATE.

3. SAITO, IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION, SAID AWG APPRECIATIVE OF US LOBBYING (AND COORDINATION OF LOBBYING EFFORTS) IN CAPITALS TO DATE. SINCE AWG BELIEVES DEFERMENT CAN SUCCEED ONLY IF IT CONSIDERED A NON-ALIGNED EFFORT, HE RECOMMENDED THAT US LOBBYING IN CAPITALS CONTINUE TO CONCENTRATE ONLY ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ITEM. THIS WILL PUT PRESSURE ON COUNTRIES TO FIND WAY OUT OF VOTING ON POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING ITEM.

4. SAITO SAID AWG MEMBERS REPORTED THAT YUGOSLAVS ARE SPREADING STORY THAT THEY AND ALGERIANS WANTED TO DELAY CONSIDERATION OF PRO-SIHANOUK ITEM BUT CHINESE WANTED IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION. ACCORDING TO YUGOSLAVS, PRC WANTS VOTE ON SIHANOUK ITEM BEFORE CREDENTIALS COMITE REPORTS EVEN IF ITEM IS DEFEATED. INDONESIA CONCLUDE THAT CHINESE MUST BE BEHIND ALBANIAN EFFORT TO DEBATE PRO-SIHANOUK ITEM.

5. SAITO SUGGESTED THAT HE, AMB BENNETT AND FONMIN BORET MEET NOV 26 TO DISCUSS KHMER QUESTION. HE AGREED THAT THREE MISSIONS SHOULD COMPARE NOTES ON LOBBYING EFFORT.

6. IN ADDITION TO REGULAR AWG MEMBERS (AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES), FIJI NOW PARTICIPATING IN MEETINGS.

7. IN INFORMAL TALKS WITH MEMBERS OTHER MISSIONS, USUN HAS FOUND INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR EFFORT AVOID VOTE ON PRO-SIHANOUK ITEM. INDIAN PERMREP SEN TOLD AMB BENNETT THAT WHILE HE (SEN) PERSONALLY CONSIDERS THAT SIHANOUK HAS BETTER CLAIM, SIHANOUK CANNOT PRESS HIS CLAIM WHILE LIVING IN PEKING. SEN ADDED THAT IT NOT UP TO UNGA TO DECIDE THIS ISSUE. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973USUNN05091
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731114/aaaaakft.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 5023 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KHMER IN 28TH GA: NOV 23 ASIAN WORKING GROUP MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, CB, UN, UNGA, (SIHANOUK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005